

# THE REFUGE

Refuge is closed for the winter, and will re-open in May.  
Brochures available.

## Scout Project



NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ARVADA, CO  
PERMIT #623



Newsletter of the Two Ponds Preservation Society

## Fall Activity Update

Greetings from Two Ponds NWR! From educational programs to prairie restoration projects, we have made several ripples on the ponds at the Refuge this season. Recently, Service staff and volunteers representing Two Ponds participated in the annual Arvada Harvest Festival and parade to share the Service mission and invite folks to visit the Refuge.

This fall and winter we are back in full swing with our EE programs both onsite and in the local school classrooms, as well as sharing our new EE trunk with teachers and students throughout the Denver metro community. In addition, we will continue to work with boy and girl scouts of all ages to help them earn their merit badges.

Later this year, Eagle scouts will be improving the wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities on the Refuge by constructing and installing a transportable wildlife viewing blind. The camouflaged structure, made out of durable environmentally-friendly materials, will blend nicely with the habitat while providing visitors of all ages with an outstanding view without disturbing the wildlife.

In addition, we will continue our prairie restoration efforts via weed control and further planting of native flora on the prairie management side of the Refuge. Even though Two Ponds will be less accessible to the public this winter, there are still plenty of opportunities for school groups and individuals to schedule educational programs in the classroom, check out our EE trunk, and volunteer their time and efforts toward improving the Refuge. Please contact Seth Beres at (303) 289-0867 for more information.

## Two Ponds Tuesdays

To accomplish some of the maintenance and improvement goals at Two Ponds NWR, the Refuge staff is setting aside one day a month devoted to this endeavor. Except when inclement weather prevails, the second Tuesday of each month will be the designated work day. The inaugural Two Ponds Tuesday will be November 8th. Anyone interested in helping out will be welcome to join us. Meet at the main Refuge entrance on 80th Avenue at 8:00 am.

## ervation through the Arts

Stamp Program is a and science program etlands habitat and tion to students in ough high school. d wildlife observa- program helps stu- visually what they eating an entry to Stamp art contest. l pairing of subjects t to both the sci- students throughout osses cultural, eth- graphic boundaries awareness of our ources.

Junior Duck Stamp ement in the pro- ents to think about fundamental prin- anatomy and envi- and can be a valid ent's grasp of these n also provides an dents to learn sci- their knowledge of y, and interdepend- stically. The Junior st begins each Fall Spring when stu- artwork to a state ts at the state level groups according to

grade level: Group I: K-3, Group II: 4-6, Group III: 7-9, and Group IV 10-12. Three first, second, and third place entries are selected for each group. A "Best of Show" is also selected by the judges from the 12 first-place winners regardless of their age group. Each state's "Best of Show" is then submitted to the Duck Stamp Office in Washington D.C. and entered into the national contest.

The first-place design from the national contest is used to create the actual Junior Duck Stamp for the following year. Junior Duck Stamps are sold by the U.S. Postal Service for \$5 per stamp. Proceeds from these sales support environmental education and provide awards and scholarships for the students, teachers, and schools that participate in the program. All entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2006. The award ceremony (along with great prizes) to honor all the state winners and schools will be held in Arvada in May of 2006.

For more details on how students, teachers, and schools in your local area can participate in this fun and educational program visit [www.fws.gov/duckstamps](http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps), or contact our Colorado State Coordinator, Seth Beres at (303) 289-0867.

## 1 Realignment Update

be familiar with a hten the Farmers re it makes a cir- a small wetland as o Ponds NWR.

al is to reroute the the wetland that it e are a number of rring this proposal, e Refuge, some that ts. There are some t might result from

As engineers proceeded to design this project they found many compounding factors that increased the complexity and in turn the impact to Two Ponds NWR. After considering all the known factors, beneficial and harmful to the Refuge, management determined that it is in the best interest of the Refuge to withdraw support for this project as it is currently designed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is interested in continuing to work with the canal companies and municipalities to seek a workable solution to the issues that prompted the project proposal initially.

Ponds Web site at <http://twoponds.fws.gov>



*Lately, I've been struck with the importance of Two Ponds NWR to the local community and beyond. I was out for a walk recently and as I passed through a park, a child came to me and held out his hand and insisted that I look at what he had found. He had a hand full of what I called roly-polies as a kid; others call them pill bugs.*

*Scientifically, I might refer to them as terrestrial isopods, members of the crustacean class. Although this did not occur at Two Ponds NWR, I have no doubt that similar occurrences happen there frequently, and I am convinced that this curiosity about the natural world and exploring it is healthy for children.*

*Manning our booth at the Arvada Harvest Festival this year, I had the opportunity to visit with many people who shared memorable experiences they have had at the Refuge. One individual said something to me that really hit home. She stated that she rarely visits the Refuge, but just knowing that it is there is comforting to her.*

## Arvada Harvest Festival

On September, 9-11, 2005, Service staff and volunteers from the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR staffed an exhibit as part of the Arvada Harvest Festival.

The exhibit provided information about the Refuge and the work of the Foundation. As part of the event, the Service also took part in the parade. During the parade, volunteers disseminated literature about the Refuge and the Foundation.

The event was extremely successful: over 1200 people visited and interacted with us at the Service's booth. Eight volunteers gave a total of 25 hours of service.

## I WOULD LOVE TO JOIN THE TWO POND FOUNDATION!

*The Foundation is a totally volunteer organization and 100 percent of the funds are raised through donations.*



The Foundation receives and administers the development of the Two Ponds NWR. Please make checks payable to Two Ponds NWR. ( ) \$25 Beaver ( ) \$50 Red Fox ( ) \$500 Swainson's Hawk – engr

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_